

REMARKS

As a preliminary matter, Applicants thank the Examiner for the acknowledgement of allowable subject matter in claims 3.

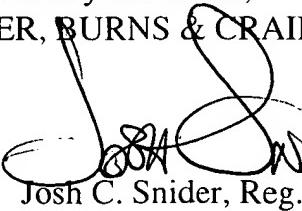
Claim 18 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 as being directed to nonstatutory subject matter. Claim 18 has been cancelled without prejudice, rendering this rejection now moot.

Claims 1-2 and 4-19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Janis (U.S. 5,263,158) in view of Siefert (U.S. 5,721,906) in further view of Hobbs (U.S. 6,523,022). As discussed above, claim 18 of the present invention has been cancelled without prejudice, rendering this rejection also now moot. Claim 3 of the present invention has also been cancelled without prejudice, and its allowable subject matter incorporated into independent claims 1 and 19. Applicants submit that by this Amendment, independent claim 1 (and its dependent claims 2 and 4-17) and independent claim 19 should be in condition for allowance, which is respectfully requested.

For all of the foregoing reasons therefore, Applicants submit that this entire Application, including claims 1-2, 4-17, and 19, is in condition for allowance, which is respectfully requested. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney should she find that any further issues exist related to patentability.

Respectfully submitted,
GREER, BURNS & CRAIN, LTD.

By


Josh C. Snider, Reg. No. 47,954

Customer No. 24978

November 8, 2004

300 South Wacker Drive

Suite 2500

Chicago, Illinois 60606

Telephone: (312) 360-0080

Faxsimile: (312) 360-9315

PADOCV082865084\740025.DOC